



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

LAW OFFICES OF JAMES E. EAKIN
P.O. BOX 1250
MENLO PARK, CA 94026

COPY MAILED

SEP 03 2009

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Michael John Allen, et al. :
Application No. 10/690,809 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: October 21, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No. 014928/00000001 :

This is a decision on the petition under the unavoidable provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(a), filed July 8, 2009, or in the alternative a petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), to revive the above-identified application.

There is no indication that the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.34(a), the signature appearing on the petition shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he/she is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he/she acts. However, if petitioner desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to petitioner. Nevertheless, all future correspondence regarding this application file will be directed solely to the address of record until otherwise instructed.

Both petitions are **DISMISSED**.

The application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed, October 17, 2007, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on January 18, 2008.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(l); (3) a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a) was unavoidable; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(d). The instant petition lacks item (3).

With respect to **37 CFR 1.137(a)**:

Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of “unavoidable” delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

The word ‘unavoidable’ . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.

In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm’r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), *aff’d*, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm’r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a “case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account.” Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was “unavoidable.” Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

Petitioner argues that the failure of James Eakin (Eakin) to forward communications to Schiff Hardin LLP was the cause of the delay. A failure to communicate is not the greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. Moreover, Schiff Hardin LLP should have known that the Power of Attorney request submitted November 9, 2007 did not comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.32 and 37 CFR 1.36(a).

The petition indicates that Eakin was the responsible party for prosecution of the above-identified when the reply necessary to avoid abandonment was due. Therefore, petitioner must provide an explanation from Eakin explaining why action was not timely taken to prevent the above-identified application from becoming abandoned.

With respect to **37 CFR 1.137(b)**:

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m); (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required by 37 CFR 1.137(d). Where there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR

1.137 was unintentional, the Director may require additional information. See MPEP 711.03(c)(II)(C) and (D). The instant petition lacks item(s) 3.

The instant petition fails to contain the required statement of unintentional delay. 37 CFR 1.137(b) states that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the required reply until the filing of a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. [NOTE: The United States Patent and Trademark Office may require additional information if there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional (MPEP 711.03(c), subsections (II)(C) and (D)).]

The petition fee for the petition to revive under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) has been charged to petitioner's deposit account as requested.

It is noted that a Revocation/Power of Attorney was filed on July 8, 2009 with this petition. The Revocation/Power of attorney is not approved because the statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) was not filed.

In order to request or take action in a patent matter, the assignee must establish its ownership of the patent to the satisfaction of the Director. In this regard, a Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) must have either: (i) documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee (e.g., copy of an executed assignment), and a statement affirming that the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was or concurrently is being submitted for recordation pursuant to § 3.11; or (ii) a statement specifying where documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee is recorded in the assignment records of the Office (e.g., reel and frame number). The power of attorney filed on July 8, 2009 does not include the reel and frame number on a proper 37 CFR 3.73(b) statement or a complete copy of the assignment.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03.

Any further petition to revive must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)." This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITION
 Commissioner for Patents
 P. O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office

Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

By facsimile: **(571) 273-8300**
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to April M. Wise at (571) 272-1642. All other inquiries concerning the examination or status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center.

/dab/
David Bucci
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Attachment: Blank copy of 3.73(b) statement
Blank copy of PTO/SB/64